High Level Committee for Muslims

3362. SHRIMATI VANGA GEETHA: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have set up any High Level Committee to study living conditions of Muslims;

(b) if so, whether the Committee has held its meeting recently;

(c) if so, the details of the discussions held there at;

(d) whether Government have prepared any draft report; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADEESAN): (a) Yes, Madam.

(b) No.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) No.

(e) Does not arise.

Elderly persons

3363. SHRI DATTA MEGHE: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the estimated number of elderly persons;

(b) whether most of these elderly persons have been neglected by their families and the State Governments, and have no place to live in and are living below poverty line;

(c) the details of the old-age homes, State-wise;

(d) whether Government provide any assistance to these old-age homes;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) whether Government propose to set up some more Government-run old-age homes to give better living conditions and health care facilities to elderly persons; and

(g) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADEESAN): (a) The number of elderly persons in the country as per Census 2001 is 7,66,22,321.

(b) No Sir. However, the Ministry grants financial assistance to NGO's for seeting up of Old Age Homes to take care of affected elderly persons.

(c) to (e) The Government provides financial assistance to old-age homes under its two grant-in-aid schemes (i) An Integrated programme for the older persons; (ii) Assistance to Panchayati Raj Institutions/Voluntary organization/self help groups for construction of old age homes/multi service centre for older persons. The details of the old-age homes, State-wise are available on the Ministry's web site: www.socialjustice.nic.in.

(f) and (g) Yes, Sir. During 2004-05, 23 new old age homes have been set up to increase the coverage of the scheme in the un-served areas.

Camps for disabled

3364. SHRI S.P.M. SYED KHAN: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the recent findings of the CAG's Audit Report reveal that there was a shortfall of 69 per cent in achievement of target set for organizing camps for distribution of aids to the disabled; and

(b) if so, the reasons for failure in implementing the welfare schemes meant for the disabled?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADEESAN): (a) Allocation under Scheme of Assistance to Disabled persons for purchase/fitting of Aids/Appliances (ADIP Scheme) have been utilized fully and as such there is no shortfall in achieving set targets under ADIP Scheme.

(b) Does not arise.